

Chapter 6. Determining the gender of nouns

Frequently you will want to know the gender of a noun. You can always find out from a glossary, of course, but there are other ways to tell. Here are some pointers.

A. If a singular noun is accompanied by a demonstrative pronoun, the gender of the pronoun is often unambiguous. For each of the following *singular* noun phrases, identify the gender of the pronoun and noun. Consult the paradigms in tables 5.4 and 5.5 before you look up the noun in a glossary.

þære tīde	_____	þone naman	_____
sēo cearu	_____	þisre nihte	_____
þās tīðe	_____	þā lāfe	_____
þis hrȳþer	_____	þisne lām	_____
þæt tōl	_____	se weġ	_____
þēos byrġen	_____	þes morgen	_____

B. The nominative or accusative plural of a noun can often reveal its gender. For each of the following *nominative plurals*, indicate the gender.

hēafdu	_____	lāeswa	_____
randas	_____	dāda	_____
þing	_____	tungol	_____
ġiefa	_____	scipu	_____
dagas	_____	secgas	_____
glēda	_____	sceattas	_____

C. Finally, nouns with the same suffix generally have the same gender. Indicate the gender of each of the following nouns. Not all are in the glossary, but you will find enough to be able to tell the gender of all of them.

ġeēacnung	_____	ġefērscipe	_____
wedlāc	_____	sārnes	_____
frēodōm	_____	cildhād	_____
strengð	_____	samnung	_____
rēaflāc	_____	hāelð	_____
dryhtscipe	_____	hāligdōm	_____
nearones	_____	biscophād	_____